

Kindly delete claims 3 and 4. Kindly amend claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, and 14

as follows:

1. (Amended once) An apparatus for packaging contact lenses, said apparatus comprising:
- a plurality of discrete [inspection lens] carriers, said carriers being movable within said apparatus; and
 - a plurality of contact lens containers, a single one of said containers being mounted on a single one of said carriers.

5. (Amended once) [An] The apparatus of claim 1 further [for automatically packaging contact lenses, said apparatus] comprising:

- [a plurality of lens carriers;
- a plurality of contact lens containers, one of said containers being mounted on a respective one of said carriers;]
- a plurality of lifts;
- a plurality of platens, each of said platens being individually supported by one of said lifts, each of said containers being mounted on a respective one of said platens;
- a mandrel disposed above said platens; and
- wherein said lifts apply pressure, within a predetermined range, to each of said containers.

9. (Amended once) An apparatus for automatically packaging contact lenses, said apparatus comprising:

- at least one [lens] carrier;
- a plurality of contact lens containers being mounted on said at least one carrier;
- a plurality of lifts;
- a plurality of mandrels disposed above said at least one carrier, each of said mandrels being individually supported by one of said lifts;

wherein said lifts apply pressure, within a predetermined range, to each of said mandrels.

10. (Amended once) The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a lidstock maneuvering system operative to engage a lidstock and to position said lidstock between said mandrels and said at least one carrier.

11. (Amended once) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said mandrels are [is] selectively moveable between a retracted upper position and an engaged lower position to seal said lidstock to said containers, and wherein in said lower position, a pressure applied by said mandrels against each of said platens is maintained within said predetermined range by the respective lifts, thereby compensating for tolerance differences in the thickness of said containers and the thickness of said lidstock to ensure that an adequate seal is formed between said lidstock and each of said containers.

13. (Amended once) An apparatus for automatically packaging contact lenses, said apparatus comprising:

a plurality of contact lens containers,

[a] one or more heated mandrels disposed above said plurality of containers, said one or more heated mandrels being moveable between a retracted position above said plurality of containers and an engaged position immediately adjacent to said plurality of containers; and

a lidstock being selectively movable between a retracted position and an inserted position, said inserted position being between said one or more heated mandrels and said plurality of containers, whereby in said inserted position the lidstock is fixedly held in position at least until said one or more heated mandrels contact[s] said lidstock while moving to said engaged position.